

BLUFFTON RUBBER COMPANY

Bluffton, Wells County, IN
Revised November 10, 1999

Site Location and Description

This site is located on the northwest side of Bluffton. The address is 128 East Market Street.

Zip Code: 46714

Site Uses and Past Activities

This site was formerly occupied by a furniture manufacturer, known as the North Furniture Company. There were as many as eight different structures on the site. One of those structures, known as the old Red Cross Building, was built in 1892 for the North Furniture Company. It was later used as a storage area for chemicals and has since been removed.

Other parts of the site have been used for generating electricity (prior to the 1890s), manufacturing windmills and other items including baggage carts, leaf mulchers, and feed mills. The Bluffton Rubber Company used the site for storage of equipment, machinery parts, and miscellaneous items.

Contaminants and Impacts

The Phase I and Phase II investigation activities indicated that metals, chlorinated organics, semi-volatiles, and some potential asbestos containing materials are present at this site.

Lead Agency

IDEM in conjunction with the Indiana Development Finance Authority

Community Concerns

This site is an eyesore, and the community is concerned about property values.

Actions Taken

The City of Bluffton was awarded an Indiana Brownfields Site Assessment Grant by Indiana Development Finance Authority in January 1998. The awarded funding should help assess environmental conditions and potential liabilities at the site.



Current Status

The State has received and reviewed the assessment reports generated from the Phase I and Phase II investigation activities. IDEM staff have made recommendations for further sampling and cleanup of this site and discussed those issues with Bluffton City officials.

Future Actions

IDEM staff will continue to be available to discuss site cleanup and future steps as necessary to facilitate the City of Bluffton's redevelopment efforts.

Reuse and Redevelopment

Once the environmental issues are identified and resolved, reuse of the site should contribute to the overall well being of the City of Bluffton. The City of Bluffton is planning to develop this site as a park. This would have positive effects on the quality of life and the economy of the City of Bluffton. A park would serve as a buffer between the residential areas near the site and the light commercial and industrial areas to the west.

Cost Estimates

Amount of grant awarded: \$46,350

For More Information

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